

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A peer-to-peer commerce system in part relies on being able to identify the geographic location of the electronic devices, e.g., computers or palm pilots. Where the computer or device is stationary, this can be indicated by inserting a zip code, address or telephone number in the computer code identifying the device. Where the device is mobile, this can be indicated manually in a similar fashion. In addition, global positioning satellite ("GPS") devices may be incorporated with the device to give geographic location automatically. Further, if the device is a cellular telephone device, the cellular device has location information in terms of identifying the cell in which the device is broadcasting. The peer-to-peer search is passed simultaneously over various branches of a binary tree to applications controlling databases for various businesses. Each business application checks the query against the information on its database and provides it to the requesting computer when available.